

Gowanus Canal Redefined

The existing site includes a commercial, industrial development bordered by residential Park Slope to the east, and Brooklyn Heights to the West. A stagnant canal penetrates the site.

The first priority is to relieve the Canal of its inability to circulate sufficiently by widening the Canal to double its width and dividing it down the center, simultaneously creating an island functioning as a park and a barrier to the incoming tidal flow.

At the southernmost boundary of the Canal, two tidal control locks are constructed, one on either side of the park. These locks operate in co-ordination with the tidal flow, thereby creating a more efficient circulation through the Canal.

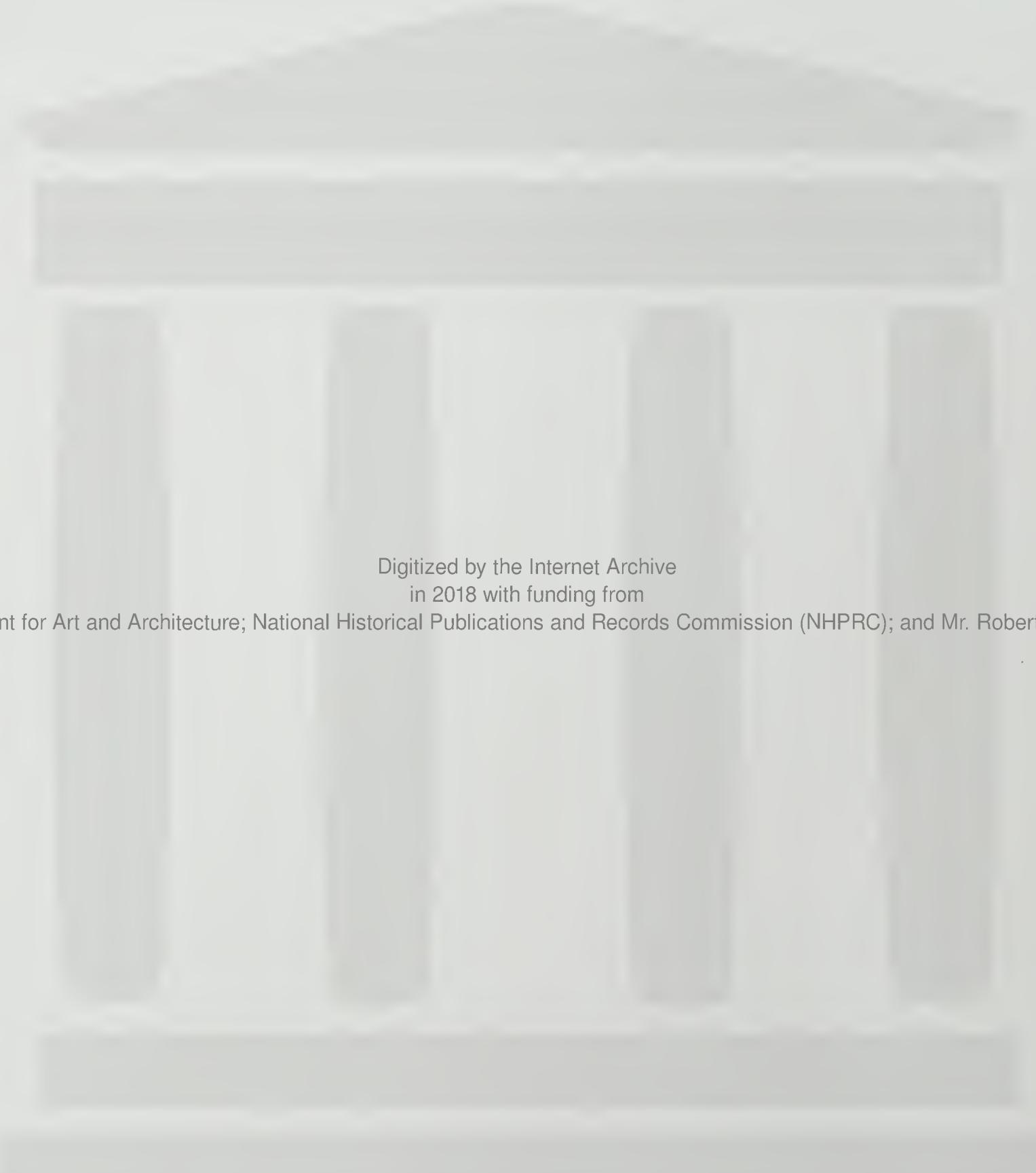
The second priority is to allow commercial development to continue without interrupting residential street life. By extending direct trucking lanes, from the Gowanus Highway into the large, radial, commercial structure, the peace of the residential community can be re-established.

The Gowanus site is a collision of four simple grids. Intersections of these grids allow for development of more complex evolution of form, without alienating the present brownstone row houses.

The residential cultural complex is a continuous multi-level residential commercial complex, developed with walkways and ramps, both exposed and protected, to allow maximum freedom of circulation throughout the Gowanus Canal site. All structures are 64 feet maximum above sea-level, creating one continuous visual field. All forms vary, always referring back to a constant code.

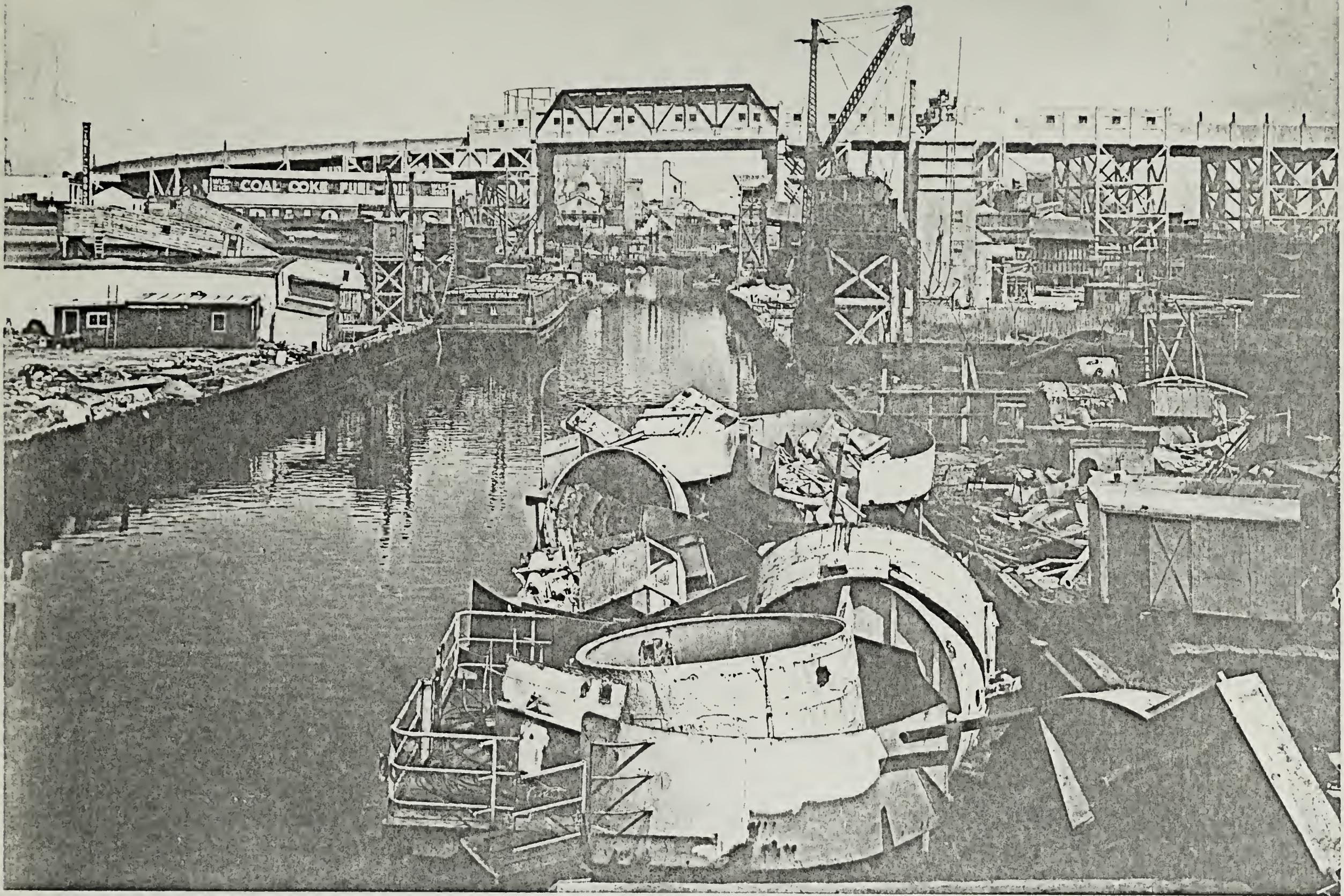
This submission is an evolution of the present grid system by creating a visually more dynamic and coherent sculptural field.

Paul Bradicich
September 1982



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FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF
THE LONG ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gowanus Canal 1947

1947



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